

gladly pay more for an all-colour guide than spend less for one that is half black- and -white. The decision on how much colour to print rests, of course, with the publishers who tend to view market matters rather than birds. We hope that an increased interest in birds will allow more coloured coverage in future Collins publications.

I was able to use this guide during a short visit to Thailand and found it most helpful, especially when used in conjunction with Lekagul's and Cronin's *Bird Guide of Thailand*. The field marks given in the text are particularly good, especially when encountering difficult groups such as birds of prey. King's descriptions of various raptor plumages, including numerous immature stages, is the best summary of Asian birds of prey that I have seen. Actually, one wishes that King might think of doing a small separate volume illustrating, in colour, all the known phases and plumages of Asian raptors. But dreaming aside, one is in good hands with his descriptions in *Birds of South-East Asia*. The book is a must for anyone interested in Asian birds and is highly recommended.

Robert L. Fleming, Jr.

Box 229
Kathmandu, Nepal

5. Bird Guide of Thailand, Second Edition. By Boonsong Lekagul and Edward W. Cronin Jr. 1974. Bangkok, Thailand. 316+8 pages, 105 coloured plates, 7 black-and-white plates, 849 range maps, 2 general maps.

All illustrations by Boonsong Lekagul. Laminated hard cover. No Price given. Available from the Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, 4, Old Custom House Lane, Bangrak, Bangkok. *Bird Guide of Thailand*, Second Edition is a very good revision and updating of Dr. Boonsong's first effort which comprehensively described and pictured all of Thailand's birds. Now, fully 849 species are covered in this new and amazingly compact volume with the text for a particular species often located on the page facing the illustration. The text includes English, scientific and Thai names followed by a size

designation. The brief plumage descriptions usually emphasize diagnostic field marks. Voices are described in some cases. Short behaviour notes occur. Habitat preferences garner a half line to a whole line and a comment on abundance concludes the text.

Many of the illustrations have been restructured, incorporating 59 species new to Thailand into the main text, and the visual material expanded. The sunbirds and flowerpeckers, for example, now comprise three plates (the first edition featured all 20 species, 35 individuals, on one page). Additional flight silhouettes of storks, raptors and ducks are helpfully included. Similarly, the color reproductions have also improved.

When birding in an area, there is nothing better than to have a guide that illustrates *every* known bird of the country in color. This Dr. Boonsong does and he is to be warmly congratulated for his remarkable effort. The fact that he has done all the illustrations himself is all the more amazing. In a personal note, I might add, that Dr. Boonsong greatly inspired us as we worked on birds here in Nepal.

The updated text is also most helpful although somewhat brief in a few cases (the Streaked Bulbul account features only 26 words plus names). When compared with the first edition, though, one can see that Edward Cronin's careful pruning, rearranging and thoughtful additions have greatly enhanced the written material.

The range maps, also new in this edition, are particularly important to birders inexperienced with Thai birds. Maps are helpful in the process of elimination—eliminating those species unlikely to be found where one is working.

A brief foreword by S. Dillon Ripley gives a timely comment on the importance of conservation and the primi^{er} role Dr. Boonsong has played in Thailand's conservation movement. The ultimate importance, after all, of a book such as *Bird Guide of Thailand* is not so much that it allows us to identify and name many birds but that it focuses opinion and interest on the beauty and multiplicity of birds—creatures that desperately need our attention and conservation efforts.

I fortunately had the opportunity to use this guide in the field on a short excursion to Khao Yai National Park and found it most useful. The arrangement of the birds is excellent and the plastic laminated cover wonderfully protects the book against rain and field wear. Frustratingly, though, I did not see many of the fine species illustrated in the book. Thus I look forward to another visit to Thailand and will be bringing *Bird Guide of Thailand* with me as an indispensable part of my gear.

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6. Primates of South Asia: Ecology, Sociobiology, and Behaviour: M.L. Roonwal and S.M. Mohnot, Harvard University Press, 1977. xviii + 420 pp. US\$ 22.50.

Roonwall and Mohnot have compiled data on laboratory and field studies of the behaviour of the 25 species of primates which inhabit their home ground of South Asia, an area stretching from the Afghan-Russian border to the Burmese-Thai border. The book is reviewed here because 12 of these species occur in Thailand. In their introduction the authors outline several behavioural aspects of the order Primates as a whole, and describe the South Asian region. The body of the text deals with each species in turn, giving basic anatomical data, a summary of behavioural studies, and a list of references. There is a distribution map and a thumbnail sketch of each species.

'Ah!', I said as I picked up the book, 'An up-to-date handbook of the primates of the region. How nice.' Sadly, I was soon disillusioned. In the introduction, most of the main features of primates, such as their sociality and their failure to colonise most of the temperate region, are duly stated. The inclusion of the term 'sociobiology' in the title soon turns out to be unwarranted, however, for the authors' approach is structural and not evolutionary. Almost none of the much discussed literature on primate